

XI.—ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF CURLEWS AND  
GODWITS IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES.

These birds are seldom seen in the Central Provinces south of the Nerbudda. All Curlews seen on inland tanks and jheels in the Nagpur and Bhandara districts have hitherto proved to be the Eastern Curlew (*Numenius arquata orientalis*, Brehm). One either comes across a solitary individual or a small flock of three or four birds. On the Mahanady River, however, Curlews are more in evidence and larger flocks may be met with. I shot specimens here in March 1925 and again in November 1929 and in both cases the birds were the Western Curlew (*Numenius arquata arquata*, Linn.). It would be interesting to note what forms are met with on the Nerbudda and in the districts north of that river, where I have had few opportunities of collecting.

The two races of Curlews are easy to discriminate; the Western form has the lower parts broadly streaked and the axillaries are white with bold streaks of blackish; the Eastern race has the lower parts finely streaked, and the axillaries are white or finely streaked with blackish.

I have only once come across a Godwit and it was a black tailed one (*Limosa limosa limosa*, L.). It was a solitary individual associating with another wader, and was shot on the Sonegaon tank, 5 miles south of Nagpur.

CENTRAL MUSEUM,  
NAGPUR.

December 7, 1933.

E. A. D'ABREU,

F.Z.S.,

Curator.

XII.—NUPTIAL PERFORMANCE OF THE SPUR-WINGED  
PLOVER [*HOPLOPTERUS VENTRALIS* (WAGL.)].

Stuart Baker (*Fauna*, vi, 186) remarks that 'the flight, walk and general actions of *Hoplopterus ventralis* are very like those of the Peewit', so that I venture to put on record some remarkable antics of *Hoplopterus ventralis*, which I observed in March 1932 on a sand-bank on the Namti stream in this district. I have watched hundreds of Green and Ringed Plover in England in the breeding season and never saw anything remotely approaching this performance. There was a party of four birds on the sand. First two approached each other slowly, and then stooping their bodies until they were in a horizontal position, whirled rapidly round on their 'axes', twice or thrice, describing a complete circle. (The Peewit stoops and bows in a similar position but I never saw one whirl round in this way.) They then drew themselves bolt upright, so that they appeared to be standing erect and as it were, on tip-toe, with bodies held vertically and breasts puffed out, and in this, for a wader, extraordinary position, ran, or rather shuffled, with short quick steps side by side, exactly as if 'dressing by a